**Africa RISING team meets to design research framework**

The Africa **R**esearch **i**n **S**ustainable **I**ntensification for the **N**ext **G**eneration (Africa RISING) team composed of program and project staff, donor representatives, and partners met in July at IITA in Ibadan to design a research framework for the program.

The 2-day meeting sought to review an earlier research framework developed by a task force coordinated by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), identify gaps and roles of partners working on the projects, pinpoint project sites and a portfolio of interventions for the program, and also design monitoring and evaluation (M&E) initiatives.

Africa RISING was started in October last year and is funded by USAID as part of the U.S. government’s Feed the Future initiative to address global hunger and food security issues in sub-Saharan Africa. The program was designed to transform agricultural systems through [sustainable intensification](http://africa-rising.net/sustainable-intensification/). Itfocuses on value chains for maize and livestock, and systems intensification research.

Currently the projects cover agricultural research projects in three geographical locations: (1) Sustainable Intensification of Cereal-based Farming Systems in the Sudano-Sahelian Zone of West Africa – led by IITA; (2) Sustainable intensification of crop-livestock systems to improve food security and farm income diversification in the Ethiopian highlands – led by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI); and (3) Sustainable intensification of maize-legume-livestock integrated farming systems in Eastern and Southern Africa – led by IITA.

These projects will also contribute to the CGIAR’s integrated ‘systems’ research programs on drylands and on the humid tropics. The CGIAR Research Program on Humidtropics is led by IITA.

According to Jerry Glover from USAID, this multi-stakeholder program with funding directed to the CGIAR is envisioned to deliver international public goods where they are needed.

The program is being undertaken with partners that include the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Africa Rice, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), World Vegetable Center (AVRDC), International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*), and many other organizations.